

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 L-03 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 ACDA-19

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TAGS: ETEL

SUBJ: POTC PROPOSAL FOR SHARED SATELLITE

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT APRIL MEETING IN TAIPEI OF EAST ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (POTC) PROPOSED TO REPS OF OTHER AREA COUNTRIES ESTABLISHMENT OF SATELLITE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE ACCESSIBLE AREA COUNTRIES FOR DOMESTIC USES ONLY. POTC US REPRESENTATIVE HAS INFORMED COMPANY OF CONCERN EXPRESSED TO DEPARTMENT THAT PROPOSAL WOULD PUT PHILIPPINES IN CONFLICT WITH INTELSAT AND CAUSE COMPANY TO BE ACCUSED OF VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. POTC HAS ASKED EMBASSY URGENTLY FOR GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER PROPOSAL PERMITTED UNDER INTELSAT AGREEMENT. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS SUMMARY OF POTC PROPOSAL AS CONTAINED IN COMPANY PROJECT STUDY. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BY OOB AUGUST 1 DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AS TO HOW POTC PROPOSAL RELATES INTELSAT TREATY AND/OR OPERATING AGREEMENT, INCLUDING ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY SHOULD PASS TO POTC RELEVANT TO USG THINKING ON SUCH REGIONAL SATELLITE SHARING SCHEMES.

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1. POTC HAS BEEN STUDYING ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC SATELLITE

SYSTEM FOR PHILIPPINES. BECAUSE FEE TO RENT ITS-IV TRANSPONDER IS HIGH, COMPANY HAS BEEN LOOKING AT OTHER POSSIBILITIES. COMPANY HAS CONCLUDED THAT IF IT TOGETHER WITH OTHER EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WOULD LAUNCH OWN SATELLITE, ON WHICH EACH COULD LEASE TRANSPONDER ENTIRELY FOR DOMESTIC USE, COSTS WOULD BE REDUCED TO LEVEL TO ENABLE POTC AND OTHER NATIONAL SYSTEMS IN EAST ASIA TO GO AHEAD WITH DOMSAT TYPE PROGRAMS.

2. AT APRIL TAIPEIN MEETING COMPANY REPS REPORT MATTER BROACHED TO OTHER AREA COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE IF CONCEPT WORTH PURSUING SINCE COST FOR EACH DEPENDS ON NUMBER OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES. POTC HAS TAKEN IDEA NO FURTHER THAN THE APRIL APPROACH.

3. POTC NORTH AMERICAN V.P. GEOFFREY CHEADLE ON JULY 24 CABLED COMPANY THAT QUOTE US SIGNATORY (COMSAT) ON BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON BASIS OF SUMMARY RECORD OF TAIPEI MEETING HAS WARNED STATE DEPARTMENT OF POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS. UNQUOTE

4. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL AS CONTAINED IN POTC PROJECT STUDY:

UNDER THE CONCEPT, THE EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, BY POOLING THEIR RESOURCES, WOULD ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION TO DEVELOP, LAUNCH, OPERATE AND CONTROL A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE IN A GEO-STATIONARY ORBIT, WITH AN ANTENNA SYSTEM CONFIGURED TO COVER ALL COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA WITH AN EIRP STRONG ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATIONS CONCERNED TO UTILIZE SMALL-DIAMETER ANTENNAS FOR BOTH DOMESTIC TELEVISION AND INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS. THE 12 TO 18 TRANSPONDERS IN THE SATELLITE WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO EACH COUNTRY BASED UPON REQUIREMENTS. THE CONCEPT UTILIZES A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE OF THE HUGHES-333 OR THE FAIRCHILD/TRW DOMESTIC SATELLITE DESIGN (PACKAGE INCLUDING ORBITING BACKUP AND GROUND SPARE). THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE EAST ASIAN SATELLITE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE PATTERNED AFTER THAT OF INTELSAT, BUT ON A MUCH SIMPLER AND SMALLER SCALE. THE TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT WOULD BE SHARED EQUALLY BY EACH PARTICIPATING NATION. COMMON FACILITIES WOULD INCLUDE TWO TRACKING, TELEMETRY & COMMAND STATIONS, AN OPERATIONS CENTER FOR SYSTEMS CONTROL AND NECESSARY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES. THE SATELLITE WOULD BE OWNED AND OPERATED BY A CONSORTIUM OF EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY BE CONTRACTED WITH A PRIVATE CORPORATION.

5. COMMENT: POTC REPS MAKE SPECIAL POINT OF SATELLITE SHARING AS MEANING SATELLITE IS COMMON PLATFORM FOR INDIVIDUALLY CLOSED NATIONAL SYSTEMS IN MANNER PROPOSED FOR INDIAN AND SRI LANKA USES OF ATSF. EMBASSY PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ACCEPTABILITY THIS OR SIMILAR APPROACHES SINCE FAIRCHILD RECENTLY HAS SOUGHT INTEREST IN SYSTEM. APPRECIATE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY COMMENT BY OOB

AUGUST 1 SINCE POTC REPS PLANNING MEETING LATER THIS WEEK WITH
REGIONAL COUNTERPARTS AND DO NOT WISH PROCEED IF PROPOSAL UNACCEPT-
ABLE INTELSAT MEMBERSHIP.
HAMILTON

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